

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal for distributing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend an event, wherein the electronic ticket information distribution store terminal receives a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of an information storage chip, transfers the request to an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus so as to instruct the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to perform distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user, receives a ticket issuing request from an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information, and writes the electronic ticket information for a plurality of electronic tickets for the event into the information storage chip, wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets are structured in a format that allows the at least one ticket to be assigned from the information storage chip to at least one other information storage chip using the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein output means is provided for outputting the electronic ticket information as a paper ticket.

Claim 21 to 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): An electronic ticket management method comprising:

- (a) providing:
 - (i) an event organizer apparatus;
 - (ii) an electronic ticket platform center which is separate from the event organizer apparatus; and
 - (iii) an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus;
- (b) causing the event organizer apparatus to form event information unique to an event;
- (c) causing the event organizer apparatus to form seller information authorizing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to sell electronic tickets to the event;
- (d) causing the event organizer apparatus to register the event information and the seller information in the electronic ticket platform center;
- (e) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to receive a request to distribute electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of a first information storage chip;
- (f) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to determine whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user by performing distribution authentication processing;
- (g) causing the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to register an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information;
- (h) causing the electronic ticket platform center to form an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus;
- (i) causing the electronic ticket platform center to relate the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master; and

- (j) causing the electronic ticket platform center to write the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for attending the event into the first information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information by performing ticket issuing processing; and
- (k) causing the electronic ticket platform center to:
 - (i) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip and to be entered by a user of a second information storage chip, for writing at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip which is separate from the first information storage chip;
 - (ii) assign the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to at least ~~a~~ the second information storage chip; ~~which is separate from the first information storage chip; and~~
 - (iii) delete or nullify the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip in response to said at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets being assigned from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device separate from the first portable device; and
 - (iv) write the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets to the second information storage chip after the user of the second information storage chip enters the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip,

wherein the first information storage chip is mounted on a first portable device that performs non-contact communication, and the second information storage chip is mounted on a second portable device that performs non-contact communication.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, wherein the seller information:

- (a) authorizes a plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses; and
- (b) includes the number of electronic tickets to be handled by each of the plurality of electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatuses.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes distributing the first information storage chip as a membership card according to a membership registration via the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes providing a predetermined time period between the distribution authentication processing performed by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus and the ticket issuing processing performed by the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes:

- (a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user; and
- (b) causing the electronic ticket platform center to perform the ticket issuing processing via a network.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes:

- (a) sending the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user; and
- (b) causing the electronic ticket platform center to perform the ticket issuing processing via an electronic ticket information distribution store terminal.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, which includes causing the electronic ticket platform center to require authentication processing when the electronic ticket information is written into the first information storage chip.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus for controlling a reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip of a customer in which a plurality of items of the electronic ticket information are stored, the electronic ticket information being used for authenticating a right to attend an event in correspondence with event information unique to each event, wherein the information storage chip of an assignor sends an assignment request to the electronic ticket assignment apparatus by specifying ID information of the information storage chip of an assignee and the electronic ticket information to be assigned, and the electronic ticket assignment apparatus performs an assignment operation by writing the electronic ticket information to be assigned into the information storage chip of the assignee in response to the assignment request and by deleting the assigned electronic ticket information from the information storage chip of the assignor.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus includes an electronic ticket platform center which authenticates a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information, and a reader/writer for reading and writing the electronic ticket information from and into the information storage chip; and

wherein the assignment request and the assignment operation are performed via a network.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus comprises an information storage chip reader/writer having a right to authenticate a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the assignment request and the assignment operation.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus further includes at least one memory device storing executable instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause the electronic ticket assignment apparatus to perform at least one reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip.

Claim 41 to 60 (canceled).

Claim 61 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the first information storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the assignor is a first user having an information storage chip and the assignee is a second user having an information storage chip, and the assignment of electronic ticket information is from the first user to the second user.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The electronic ticket management method of claim 29, further comprising:

before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

- (a) receive identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip;
- ~~(b) receive a password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip.~~

Claim 65 (currently amended): The electronic ticket management method of claim 64, further comprising:

before assigning the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets from the first information storage chip to the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

- ~~(e)~~(b) request the user of the second information storage chip input an authentication password for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip;
- ~~(d)~~(c) receive the authentication password;
- ~~(e)~~(d) authenticate the authentication password input by the user of the second information storage chip with the password specified by the user of the first information storage chip.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The electronic ticket management method of claim 64, further comprising:

before receiving the identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip, and before receiving the password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip, causing the electronic ticket platform center to:

receive a login ID and a login password associated with first information storage chip, and

authenticate the login ID and the login password associated with the first information storage chip,

wherein the login ID is separate from the identification information of the second information storage chip specified by the user of the first information storage chip, and the login password is separate from the password, specified by the user of the first information storage chip, for writing the at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets into the second information storage chip.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket management device operating in an electronic ticket management system, the electronic ticket management system using an information storage chip storing electronic ticket information for permitting a user to use a service, the electronic ticket management device comprising:

an electronic ticket information forming unit:

- (a) configured to store an electronic ticket information master,
- (b) configured to form service information unique to each scheduled service, the service information including location information and seat information for the scheduled service, wherein the seat information is formed based on a GUI operation on a seat layout of the scheduled service, and the seat layout shows seat availability for the scheduled service in a graphical form, and
- (c) configured to form electronic ticket information based on the electronic ticket information master and the service information, wherein the electronic ticket information includes information about at least one attendee; and

an information sending unit configured to send the electronic ticket information to the user via the internet in a format that at least allows:

- (a) the electronic ticket information to be written to the information storage chip of a mobile communication device of the user,
- (b) the electronic ticket information to be read by a reader device installed at a venue corresponding to the scheduled service and configured to read the electronic ticket information in a non-contact fashion, and
- (c) the reader device to perform distribution authentication processing to determine whether the electronic ticket information is distributed to the information storage chip with proper authentication.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the format the electronic ticket information is sent in also allows the electronic ticket information to be written by a writer device to the information storage chip of the mobile communication device of the user via non-contact communication.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the format the electronic ticket information is sent in also allows the electronic ticket information to be read by the reader device via non-contact communication.

Claim 70 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the electronic ticket information includes information about a plurality of attendees.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the service information includes at least one of an opening time of the venue, a start time of the scheduled service, a name of the scheduled service, a name of a servicer, a name of the venue, a seat number, an entrance gate, a name of an electronic ticket seller, and a contact name.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the electronic ticket information has an access restriction based on an access key when written to the information storage chip.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, further comprising a receiving unit configured to receive ticket allocation information from a ticket seller.

Claim 74 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, further comprising a receiving unit configured to receive seat allocation information from a ticket seller.

Claim 75 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, further comprising a log reporting unit configured to report logs of sales history of electronic tickets for the scheduled service to a ticket seller.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the electronic ticket information is distributed to the information storage chip of the mobile communication device via the internet.

Claim 77 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the electronic ticket information master is updated when the information sending unit sends the electronic ticket information to the user.

Claim 78 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, further comprising an authentication unit configured to authenticate the user before sending the electronic ticket information to the user.

Claim 79 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management device of claim 67, wherein the electronic ticket information forming unit receives an instruction from an assignor user to assign designated ticket information to an assignee user, and the electronic ticket information forming unit encrypts the designated ticket information using information unique to the assignee user.

Claim 80 (withdrawn): An electronic ticket management method using an information storage chip storing electronic ticket information for permitting a user to use a service, the electronic ticket management method comprising:

storing an electronic ticket information master;

forming service information unique to each scheduled service, the service information including location information and seat information for the scheduled service, wherein the seat information is formed based on a GUI operation on a seat layout of the scheduled service, and the seat layout shows seat availability for the scheduled service in a graphical form, and

forming electronic ticket information based on the electronic ticket information master and the service information, wherein the electronic ticket information includes information about at least one attendee; and

sending the electronic ticket information to the user via the internet in a format that at least allows:

- (a) the electronic ticket information to be written to the information storage chip of a mobile communication device of the user,
- (b) the electronic ticket information to be read by a reader device installed at a venue corresponding to the scheduled service and configured to read the electronic ticket information in a non-contact fashion, and
- (c) the reader device to perform distribution authentication processing to determine whether the electronic ticket information is distributed to the information storage chip with proper authentication.

Claim 81 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the format the electronic ticket information is sent in also allows the electronic ticket information to be written by a writer device to the information storage chip of the mobile communication device of the user via non-contact communication.

Claim 82 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the format the electronic ticket information is sent in also allows the electronic ticket information to be read by the reader device via non-contact communication.

Claim 83 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80,

wherein the electronic ticket information includes information about a plurality of attendees.

Claim 84 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the service information includes at least one of an opening time of the venue, a start time of the scheduled service, a name of the scheduled service, a name of a servicer, a name of the venue, a seat number, an entrance gate, a name of an electronic ticket seller, and a contact name.

Claim 85 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the electronic ticket information has an access restriction based on an access key when written to the information storage chip.

Claim 86 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, further comprising receiving ticket allocation information from a ticket seller.

Claim 87 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, further comprising receiving seat allocation information from a ticket seller.

Claim 88 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, further comprising reporting logs of sales history of electronic tickets for the scheduled service to a ticket seller.

Claim 89 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the electronic ticket information is distributed to the information storage chip of the mobile communication device via the internet.

Claim 90 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, wherein the electronic ticket information master is updated when the information sending unit sends the electronic ticket information to the user.

Claim 91 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, further comprising authenticating the user before sending the electronic ticket information to the user.

Claim 92 (withdrawn): The electronic ticket management method of claim 80, further comprising receiving an instruction from an assignor user to assign designated ticket

information to an assignee user, and encrypting the designated ticket information using information unique to the assignee user.

Claim 93 (withdrawn): A non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing a computer program for use in an electronic ticket management device operating in an electronic ticket management system, the electronic ticket management system using an information storage chip storing electronic ticket information for permitting a user to use a service, the computer program causing the electronic ticket management device to:

store an electronic ticket information master;

form service information unique to each scheduled service, the service information including location information and seat information for the scheduled service, wherein the seat information is formed based on a GUI operation on a seat layout of the scheduled service, and the seat layout shows seat availability for the scheduled service in a graphical form, and

form electronic ticket information based on the electronic ticket information master and the service information, wherein the electronic ticket information includes information about at least one attendee; and

send the electronic ticket information to the user via the internet in a format that at least allows:

- (a) the electronic ticket information to be written to the information storage chip of a mobile communication device of the user,
 - (b) the electronic ticket information to be read by a reader device installed at a venue corresponding to the scheduled service and configured to read the electronic ticket information in a non-contact fashion, and
 - (c) the reader device to perform distribution authentication processing to determine whether the electronic ticket information is distributed to the information storage chip with proper authentication.
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